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S E C R E T KATHMANDU 001303

SIPDIS

NOFORN

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EAID](#) [IN](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: INDIAN DCM HINTS MAOIST LEADERS DETAINED IN INDIA
COULD SOON BE RELEASED

Classified By: Charge Elisabeth Millard, reasons 1.4 (b/d).

1. (S/NF) Indian DCM V.P. Haran met with CDA at his request on June 13. He requested information about the mid-May trip to Afghanistan by Embassy Kathmandu's DATT and USAID Director along with the Vice Chairman of Nepal's Planning Commission and an RNA officer. CDA explained that the purpose of the mission had been to assess to what extent there were lessons to be learned for Nepal from the PRTs in Afghanistan in terms of establishing the delivery of aid and government services. Haran responded by stressing that while the situation in Afghanistan was different from the one in Nepal, the experience could obviously provide useful information. CDA added USAID/Kathmandu would also be examining the possible relevance of programs for former insurgents in the Philippines.

Concern about GOI-brokered Meetings with Maoists

2. (S/NF) Haran noted that he did not yet have any information about NC leader G.P. Koirala's discussions in New Delhi. As a result of the releases of a large number of political prisoners in Nepal, Koirala's daughter Sujata and nephew Skehar (both seen as potential successors to G.P.) would end their self-imposed exile and return to Nepal with the NC leader on June 15. Central Committee Member Krishna Prasad Sitola was also scheduled to return to Nepal with Koirala. CDA reiterated USG concerns about reports that the GOI had arranged meetings for and/or met with Maoist leaders in New Delhi. Haran agreed but noted it was curious that "no such concern had been expressed to the Indian embassy in Washington." CDA noted that this did not track with our information.

Continued Detention of Maoist Leaders in India in Question

3. (S/NF) Haran said that "it would be difficult" to indefinitely detain the two senior Maoist leaders Gaurav Gajurel and Mohan Baidya. CDA expressed serious concern, noting India's own focus on fighting terrorism. Haran responded that for the moment there was little focus on the fate of the two Maoists, but if press attention increased, the GOI might be faced with questions it could not easily answer.

Minimize considered.

MILLARD